

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

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FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, SF, XA, WA, SHUM

SUBJECT: LAGOS CONFERENCE: HIGHLIGHTS OF AUGUST 22 SPEECH BY
NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO

REF: LAGOS 9475

SUMMARY: SIMILAR IN TONE TO KAUNDA'S ADDRESS, OBASANJO'S SPEECH
CONCENTRATED EVEN MORE HEAVILY ON ECO OMIC COUNTERMEASURES TO
APARTHEID. OBASANJO ALSO MADE CLEAR NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO A
SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, PEACEFUL IF POSSIBLE BUT VIOLENT IF
NECESSARY. THE WEST AND ESPECIALLY ITS MULTINATIONALS OPERATING
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IN BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND BLACK AFRICA RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE
CRITICISM WITH MNC'S BEING TOLD THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER OPERATE
IN BOTH NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. FMG IS SETTING UP SPECIAL
FUND FOR VICTIMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN OPPRESSION. OBASANJO
CLOSED WITH HOPE FOR ACTION LEADING TO END OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT
IN SA AND END OF ALL MILITARY AND NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH
PRETORIA. END SUMMARY.

1. KEY TO OPENING ADDRESS OF NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE LT. GEN. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO WAS REPEATED INSISTENCE THAT ECONOMIC PRESSURES BE APPLIED TO SOUTH AFRICA. SPEECH NOTED THAT APARTHEID IS MOST CRIMINAL AND DANGEROUS IN ITS ECONOMIC CONTEXT BUT ALSO MOST VULNERABLE. NIGERIAN LEADER REMARKED ON MUTUAL SUPPORT WHICH THE ECONOMIES OF THE OECD AND SOUTH AFRICA RENDER TO EACH OTHER AND STATED AFRICANS CANNOT PRETEND THEY ARE UNAWARE OF MACHINATIONS OF THOSE WHO PRETEND TO BE FRIENDS BUT ARE REALLY ONLY OUT FOR WHAT THEY CAN GET FROM AFRICA.

2. MULTINATIONS CAME IN FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH ALTHOUGH OBASANJO'S NOTED THE EFFORTS OF THE UN AND CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS TO DRAW UP GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF MNC'S. ANTICIPATING A WESTERN COUNTERARGUMENT, THE NIGERIAN LEADER EMPHASIZED THAT CORE OF PROBLEM IS NOT HELPED BY IMPROVEMENT OF WORKERS CONDITIONS BY FOREIGN CORPORATIONS OR ANYONE ELSE. PROBLEM IS APARTHEID SYSTEM IN WHICH BOTH COMPANY AND WORKERS FUNCTION. WORKER CONDITIONS ARE MERELY SYMPTOMATIC.

3. NIGERIA FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO FRATERNIZE WITH CORPORATIONS WHICH CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND CANNOT CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THEM. WORKING THROUGH A NEWLY CREATED ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT, FMG WILL INSTITUTE REVIEW OF ITS RELATIONS WITH SUCH COMPANIES AND WITH ALL NATIONS WHICH PERMIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEMSELVES TO BE QTE LAUNDRIES UNQTE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS OR FUNDS. FOREIGN CONTRACTORS WITH TIES TO SOUTH AFRICA ARE ALREADY BARRED FROM NIGERIA. (COMMENT: THIS REFLECTS A LAW ON THE BOOKS FOR SOME TIME BUT WHICH IS NOT GENERALLY ENFORCED. END COMMENT.)

4. TO AID VICTIMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN OPPRESSION, FMG IS SETTING UP SPECIAL SOUTH AFRICA FUND -- NO FIGURES MENTIONED.
5. OBAANJO TOOK THE MIDDLE ROAD ON VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF FRIENDS WHO ARE SEEKING PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS AND NOTING THAT NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME HE REMARKED THAT IT DOES NOT HELP TO ADVISE NON-VIOLENCE WHEN ONE'S ENEMIES ARE INCREASING THEIR WARMAKING CAPACITY. TO CONSIDERABLE APPLAUSE OBASANJO

AFFIRMED THAT NIGERIA WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND WILL DEVOTE ALL ITS RESOURCES TO REMOVAL OF IAN SMITH.

6. FINALLY OBANJO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR A CONFERENCE FINAL PRODUCT CALLING FOR CESSATION OF NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND PROGRESSIVE DISMANTLING OF EXISTING

INVESTMENTS; A HALF TO THE SUPPLY OF WEAPONS, SPARES AND LICESNSES
TO PRODUCE ARMS IN SOUTH AFRICA; AND AN END TO ALL NUCLEAR
COOPERATION WITH PRETORIA.

2. COMMENT: OBASANO'S STATEMENT STRIKES US AS RATHER MODERATE
AND IN LINE WITH NIGERIAN VIEWS ON THE CONFERENCE DECLARATION
AS REPORTED BY HARRIMAN (REFTEL). THERE WAS NO MENTION OF
ZIONISM-RACISM OR ANY OTHER ALLUSION TO ISRAEL AND ONLY A HINT
OF THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMMINENT SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS
CAPACITY.
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